the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL

DEATH SPIRAL

PART 7 OF 9

26

LGY#990

KELLY
MANNA
McGUINNESS
FARMER
MENYZ

RATED T

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

I FEEL... *STRANGE.*

WHICH IS SAYING A *LOT*, I BET...*HEH.*

IT'S A *MEETING* OF SERIAL-KILLING *MINDS*, SO TO SPEAK.

TORMENT AND *CARNAGE*...WE ARE FINALLY *ONE*.

YOU KNOW I'M A *FAN* OF YOUR WORK, TORMENT, BUT I WANT A GLIMPSE OF THE MAN *BEHIND* THE MASSACRES.

I AM WHAT I AM.

BIBLICAL. I'M FEELING IT.

EDDIE WAS *SO* CLOSED OFF.

LOOK AS YOU WILL.

THERE IS *NOTHING* TO HIDE.

YOU AIN'T KIDDING.

YOU EVER READ *UZUMAKI?* I SAW A COMMENT ON A CLIP OF A VIDEO ABOUT IT ONCE. OBSESSIVE SPIRALS KILL A TOWN OR SOMETHING?

FEELS LIKE IT WOULD BE ON YOUR *SHELF.*

WILL YOU *ALWAYS* TALK THIS MUCH?

PROBABLY. BUT YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I NEVER TALK WITH MY MOUTH FULL, SO...

EAT UP!

THIS IS WHAT CARNAGE WANTED ALL ALONG.

THIS WHOLE MESS. ALL THE *DEATH.* THE *PAIN...*

PAUL.

IT WAS HIS FIRST DANCE WITH *TORMENT.*

DAMN IT, EDDIE... YOU MAKE IT REAL HARD FOR A GUY TO *LIKE* YOU.

IN WHAT UNIVERSE DID YOU THINK YOU COULD CONTROL...*THIS?*

PETER PARKER HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED "SPIDER-SENSE"! AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BEN, PETER PARKER UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. HE BECAME THE CRIMEFIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

CARNAGE HAS TRICKED HIS HOST, **EDDIE BROCK**. THEY HAD A DEAL THAT CARNAGE WOULD ONLY SATE HIS MURDEROUS HUNGER BY KILLING SERIAL KILLERS. BUT CARNAGE FIGURED OUT A WAY TO PUT EDDIE'S CONSCIOUSNESS TO SLEEP, AND WHILE EDDIE WAS OUT, HE SET THE SERIAL KILLER **TORMENT**—WHO MURDERS HIS WAY THROUGH HIS VICTIMS' FAMILIES BEFORE KILLING THE VICTIM THEMSELF—ON A TRIUNE CHALLENGE TOWARD PETER PARKER, EDDIE BROCK, AND **MARY JANE WATSON** (WHO IS THE CURRENT HOST OF **VENOM**)! SO FAR, TORMENT HAS KILLED SPIDER-VILLAIN AND DISTANT WATSON RELATIVE THE **SHOCKER**, AS WELL AS EDDIE'S FATHER, **CARL BROCK**. THEN, **PAUL RABIN**—WHO HAS BEEN FOSTERING EDDIE'S SON, **DYLAN BROCK**, WITH MJ—SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE DYLAN. EDDIE SWORE TO TAKE REVENGE ON TORMENT...ONLY FOR CARNAGE TO ABANDON HIM TO BOND WITH TORMENT! WHILE VENOM WENT OFF TO SAFEGUARD DYLAN, SPIDER-MAN FINDS HIMSELF SOLO AGAINST A MERGED VERSION OF TWO OF THE DEADLIEST SUPER-SERIAL KILLERS OF ALL TIME!

SPIDER-MAN A.K.A. PETER PARKER

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM DEATH SPIRAL

PART 7 OF 9

VENOM A.K.A. MARY JANE WATSON

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CARNAGE A.K.A. EDDIE BROCK

HOW DO YOU LIKE THE *NEW RIDE?*

YOU ARE *BEAUTIFUL.*

SWEET TALKER.

CAN YOU SMELL IT? WE'VE *TERRIFIED* HIM.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

HNNGH!

THE *QUIET.*

YOU THINK *I* TALK TOO MUCH... *HEH.*

THWOK

HE'S HALF RIGHT--*OW.*

I *DID* SHUT MY MOUTH FOR A SECOND...TO *THINK.*

CARNAGE IS NEARLY *INDESTRUCTIBLE.*

TORMENT...I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE IS OTHER THAN *TACTICAL, DRIVEN,* AND *RUTHLESS.*

GET HIM *SCREAMING* BEFORE HE STARTS *QUIPPING.*

THWIPP!

IF THEY BECOME A POWER COUPLE, WE'RE *COOKED.*

SO IS IT *TORMENTAGE* OR *CARMENT?*

THWIPP!

SPLT

YOU HAVE TO PICK OR *THREATS AND MENACES* NAME BLENDS FOR YOU--NOT IDEAL. THEY ONCE CALLED ME AND THE BLACK CAT "SPAT."

I'M TIRED OF LOSING.

IF I CAN'T BEAT THEM *PHYSICALLY,* ATTACK THEIR EGOS. BUY SOME TIME...

TRY TO KEEP *SOMEONE* FROM DYING TONIGHT.

CARNAGE... GONNA...KILL... YOU...

WHERE'S *D-DYLAN...?*

WHERE'S...

"...MY SON?"

STUPID. SPIN IT AND *HEAL*... OR MAYBE TURN INTO A CLOUD OF *FARTS* AND *DIE*.

AWESOME INVENTION, *TOPKNOT*.

YOU ALL RIGHT BACK THERE?

I WOULD BE IF I COULD GET THIS #$%& JACKPOT DEVICE TO ACTUALLY GIVE ME SOMETHING USEFUL!

WHERE THE HELL ARE WE *GOING?*

HOSPITAL SEEMS LIKE A GOOD IDEA. *WE* CAN PATCH YOU UP, BUT--

THEN YOU'RE GONNA *KILL* THAT #$%& TORMENT... FOR WHAT HE DID TO *PAUL?*

...

WE DON'T DO THAT.

YOU USED TO.

WE DON'T DO THAT.

BY THE TIME WE GET YOU TO THE HOSPITAL, SPIDER-MAN AND EDDIE WILL HAVE *CAUGHT* THE KILLER--

EDDIE--?

HOW CAN HE DO *ANYTHING* AGAINST THAT PSYCHO?!

EDDIE... EDDIE'S BONDED TO *YOUR BROTHER.*

CARNAGE?! WHAT THE #$%&--?

DO YOU HAVE BABY NAMES PICKED OUT YET? YOU BOTH LIKE BLOOD, SO, ABBY? LIKE...TYPE A PLUS B?

SO LOUD.

KEEP THEM TALKING. AND THINK!

CAN I TRIGGER *SHOCKER'S GAUNTLET?*

IS THERE *FIRE?*

HOW LONG DOES EDDIE HAVE?

MAYBE TOO SOON FOR THAT. A LOT OF RELATIONSHIPS SPLIT EARLY.

COMPATIBILITY. LIKE, TORMENT, YOU'RE QUITE LITERALLY SO ***INTO*** CARNAGE.

BUT WHILE YOU'RE CLEARLY TYPE-A DISCIPLINED--

--HE'S SUCH A ***MESS!***

BET HE LEAVES THE TOILET SEAT UP--?

DOES THAT ACTUALLY WORK? CHILDISH ***ANTAGONISM?***

USUALLY, YEAH-- ***GCHH!***

IT'S JUST ***NOISE.*** I AM ACCUSTOMED TO DEALING WITH NOISE.

KSHHHHH

SOON, YOU WILL FALL INTO SUBLIME *SILENCE.*

YES! YES!!! NOW SPLIT HIS CHEST AND EAT HIS HEART!

...

SOON.

"SOON"? NO! NO MORE FOREPLAY-- *FINISH HIM!*

THE SPIRAL *MUST* BE HONORED.

BUT HE'S *RIGHT THERE--!*

YOU WILL SEE.

LET'S AT LEAST KILL *THAT* SCRUB?!

DO IT FOR *ME?!*

YOU WANT TO WORK WITH ME, CARNAGE?

UNDERSTAND ME.

BWHOOM!

TORMENT!

DAD!

SPIDER-MAN!

HEY...YEAH... HI. I'M KIND OF CONCUSSED, SO, SORRY I'M NOT HAPPIER TO SEE THE EIGHT OF YOU OR WHATEVER...

QUADRUPLE VISION IS THE ***WORST*** UPGRADE.

SO, PLOT TWIST... CARNAGE BONDED TO TORMENT.

WHAT?!

IT WAS HIS WHOLE REASON FOR KICKING THIS OFF, I THINK... AND ALSO ***KILLING*** US.

WE NEED TO END THIS!

?!

I'M GONNA PRETEND I DIDN'T JUST PEE A LITTLE, BUT AT LEAST YOU JUST *ROARED* ME OUT OF A CONCUSSION.

YOU *GOOD?*

NO. SORRY... WE'RE HAVING A LOT OF *FEELINGS.*

ME TOO.

BUT WE NEED TO PUT THOSE IN A BOX AND *THINK.*

EDDIE NEEDS A HOSPITAL, NOW. YOU'RE FASTER THAN ME AND *STRONGER--*

PUT HIM IN AN *UBER!*

THIS IS HIS FAULT! *HE* BONDED WITH CARNAGE!

HE LET *YOUR SECRET IDENTITY* SLIP TO A *SERIAL KILLER!*

PAUL--ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE DEAD BECAUSE OF *HIM!*

I KNOW. I KNOW.

HONESTLY, I'M *FURIOUS* AND I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M GOING TO MOVE ON, BUT...

BUT I DON'T WANT ANYONE *ELSE* TO DIE TONIGHT.

GOING AFTER TORMENT *AND* CARNAGE ALONE IS SUICIDE.

I DON'T THINK SO. CARNAGE IS ALL *MADNESS...* BUT TORMENT'S ALL METHOD.

TORMENT WON'T *KILL* ME UNTIL "THE *SPIRAL*" IS COMPLETE.

WHICH MEANS HE'S GOING AFTER *AUNT MAY...*AND *AUNT ANNA.*

FLASH WON'T BE ENOUGH.

CAN YOU GUYS HURRY THE #$%& UP?!

HIS BREATHING'S REAL BAD!

PLEASE...?

OOH, DID YOU SEE MARJORIE'S FACE WHEN WE GOT IN YOUR CAR? SHE'S GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT MY "*BOY TOY*" FOR MONTHS, THAT GOSSIP!

MARY JANE WILL JUST *DIE* WHEN I TELL HER! SPEAKING OF, DID YOU KNOW THAT SHE *BROKE UP* WITH PAUL?

NICE ENOUGH MAN, BUT *NOT* A MATCH FOR MY NIECE. WHAT'S *YOUR* RELATIONSHIP STATUS AGAIN, FLASH?

ONE SECOND--

HEY, GUYS! SUCKS TO HAVE TO LEAVE A *MESSAGE*, BUT... YEAH...

I'M IN THE CAR WITH THE *DELIGHTFUL* AUNT ANNA, BUT SURPRISE, WE'RE *NOT* HEADED TO MAY'S HOUSE...

F.E.A.S.T. FAMILY FUN

"...BECAUSE IT'S FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT *F.E.A.S.T.*, WHICH ANNA TELLS ME IS A HUGE EVENT THAT WILL HAVE A LOT OF *INNOCENT* ATTENDEES...?

"SEE YOU THERE *SOON*, I HOPE."

CUTTING THE LINE, PEOPLE!

HOSPITAL

BILL US LATER! SUPER-HERO BUSINESS NEEDS TO GET... *BUSINESSED.*

WE NEED A #$%& DOCTOR, NOW PLEASE!

SMOOTH, KID.

VENOM... I--

SHUT UP. WE DID THE THING.

TALKING TO YOU WASN'T PART OF THE DEAL.

SO DON'T TALK, JUST... LISTEN.

PLEASE?

I KNOW...I KNOW I #$%& UP. AND EVEN BEFORE THAT, I WASN'T GOOD TO YOU.

AND TO...YOU, INSIDE...

I WAS REALLY BAD TO YOU. UNFORGIVABLE.

SO I DON'T EXPECT FORGIVENESS. I DON'T EVEN EXPECT MERCY.

I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THIS...ALL OF THIS... WAS AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

I TOOK CARNAGE SO SOMEONE ELSE DIDN'T HAVE TO.

AND...I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE HIM...

BUT I HOPE IT COUNTS FOR SOMETHING THAT I TRIED.

I KNOW THE PITFALLS NOW.

NEXT TIME, I'LL GET IT RIGHT. YOU'LL SEE--

"NEXT TIME..."? DAD--

"I'M SORRY. I TRIED MY BEST. I CAN BE BETTER."

MY FATHER RAN THOSE LINES...EVERY TIME HE FINISHED TEARING INTO MY MOTHER. OR MY SISTER.

OR ME.

ADDICTS DON'T GET BETTER BY LYING TO THEMSELVES.

DON'T DIE SO I DON'T HAVE TO HEAR SPIDER-MAN MOPE ABOUT IT.

WE NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

EZ MARCO
CHEZ
YOU WOULD KILL EVERYONE IN THAT BUILDING IF I LET YOU... WOULDN'T YOU?
DUH? I'M FAMISHED. I HAVEN'T CHOKED THE LIFE OUT OF ANYTHING FOR AGES.
ALSO, SCREAMS ARE FUNNY.
THE QUIET IS ALL I DESIRE.
EVERY SEGMENT OF THE SPIRAL I REMOVE STILLS THE NOISES THAT TORMENT ME.
OPPOSITES ATTRACT, BLAH BLAH. TRY IT MY WAY AND I THINK YOU'LL DIG IT--
NO.
NOURISHING AS IT WOULD BE FOR YOU... EVERY UNPLANNED SCREAM WOULD TRIGGER NEW SPIRALS FOR ME.
I WOULD BE COMPELLED TO FOLLOW THEM, TORMENTED... INFINITELY.
YOU WILL BE FED. YOU WILL GET SCREAMS...BUT I MUST FIRST OBTAIN SOLACE.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY DITCH THAT NOISY GAUNTLET, THEN--
HEH. FUNNY.

I WAS STRANDED IN AN *ALIEN WASTELAND* WITH A BROKEN LEG, SUBSISTING ON *SCRAPS* FOR *WEEKS*, AND THAT WASN'T AS *SCARY* AS *THIS.*

BECAUSE THAT MADE *SENSE.*

THIS...ALL THIS *KILLING*...TO SATISFY A *DEFECT* IN ONE PERSON'S BRAIN AND THE *BLOODLUST* OF AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE?

KILLING IN *MY NAME.*

I CAN'T *FATHOM* IT. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET *AHEAD* OF IT.

ALL I CAN DO IS *FIGHT* UNTIL IT STOPS.

AND TRY TO IGNORE THE STAB OF *GUILT* WHEN I REALIZE...

...I'M *RELIEVED* THAT THE BODY *DANGLING* IN FRONT OF ME *ISN'T* AUNT MAY'S.

SHHH... ENJOY THE *QUIET.*

IT'S SO VERY *FRAGILE.*

NO MORE!!!

HRRRRRGH!

FWOOSH!

OH.

YOU DON'T LIKE *FIRE?*

GOOD TO KNOW.

THE SPIRAL IS CLOSING... *TIGHTER.*

YOUR *FIRST COUSIN.*

"COUSIN"?

DID YOU *GROW UP* TOGETHER?

WERE YOU *FRIENDS?*

SHUT UP!

WILL YOU TRY TO *KILL ME* NOW?

I AM ASHAMED *AGAIN*...BECAUSE FOR A SECOND...

...I CAN IMAGINE THE SOUND OF HIS NECK *SNAPPING.*

A SECOND IS ALL IT TAKES TO *LOSE FOCUS.*

NO.

YOU'RE *"GOOD."*

BWWWWWWWWW

BOOM!

GAS MAIN. HUH.

"HUH," MY POINTY RED BUTT! WARN ME NEXT TIME YOU USE THAT GAUNTLET!

DON'T WORRY...

...I WON'T.

EARS RINGING. LUNGS FILLING WITH HEAT AND ASH.

BODY VIBRATING.

I JUST WANT TO SLEEP.

SLEEP... TO MAKE THE NIGHTMARE END.

IS THAT IRONIC? I DON'T KNOW--

=Koff koff=

--AND SUDDENLY, I DON'T CARE.

SOMEHOW, HE'S *ALIVE.*

I'LL TAKE IT.

EASY... *koff* ONE STEP AT A TIME, PAL.

I'LL TAKE IT.

KAF D-DID THAT MONSTER SAY... THAT WE'RE *COUSINS?*

YEAH, BUT... *koff* DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING A *PSYCHOPATH* TELLS YOU.

YOU'RE GONNA BE *OKAY.*

I'M *FINISHING* THIS.

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE! *WELCOME!* IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME, MY NAME IS *MAY PARKER.* I'M THE *DIRECTOR* OF F.E.A.S.T.

WELCOME TO ONE OF MY FAVORITE EVENTS-- FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SPELL *FUN* WITHOUT *FAMILY,* RIGHT?

TO BE CONTINUED...

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

THE GRONE-ZONE

SYMBIOTES & CARNAGES & TORMENTS, OH MY!

This April, the final chapters of DEATH SPIRAL are upon us through the pages of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and VENOM! If you thought Peter, MJ, and Eddie were in dire straights before—words cannot prepare you for what villains Torment and Carnage will unleash throughout the climactic issues to come. We've nearly reached the center of Torment's spiral of death and destruction. Not everyone is walking away from this one, and by the finale—ASM #27—Spider-Man, backed into the very last corner and out of options...does the unthinkable! To cap it all off—a very special (and terrifying) epilogue issue all about Torment's origins arrives at your local comic shop in May: ASM/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL – BODY COUNT!

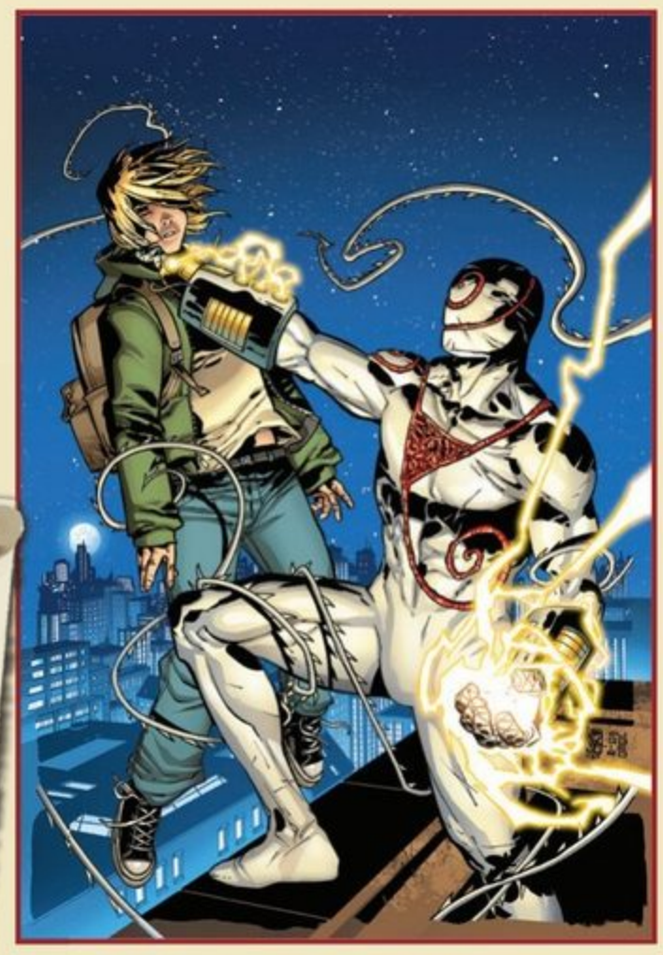
And don't miss the next great Spider-Epic spinning out of the pages of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Miles, Gwen, and all your favorite Spider-Heroes enroll in SPIDER-VERSITY—where they will be tested and trained like never before by the GREEN GOBLIN himself!

It's thwip to be square!

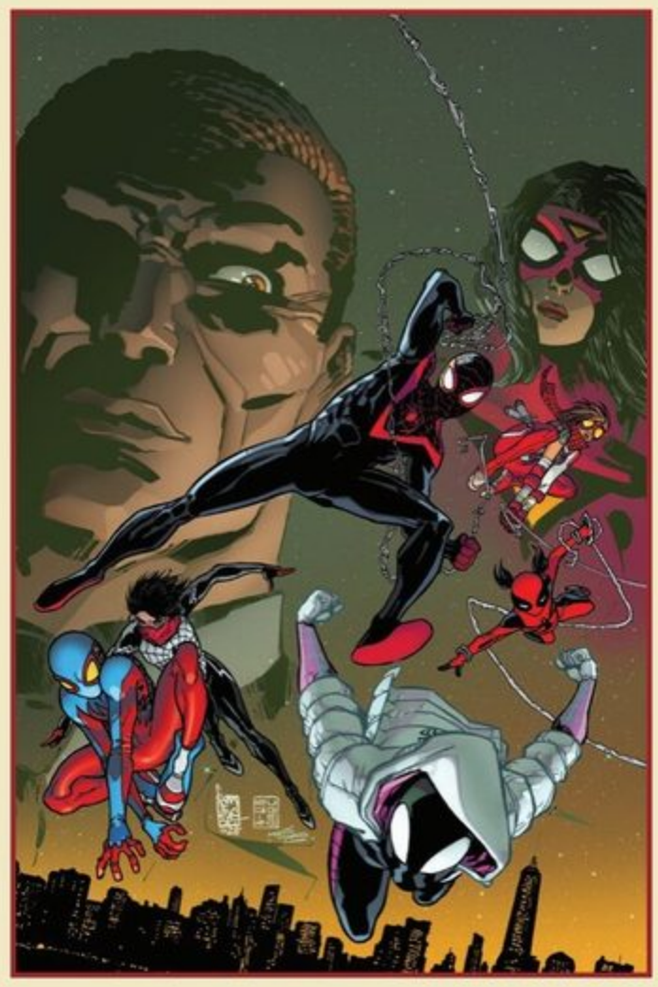
Tommy G

THWIP-LIST

- ❑ ALIEN: KING KILLER #1
- ❑ ALL-NEW SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER #9
- ❑ VENOM #256



- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #26
- ❑ BLACK CAT #9
- ❑ KNULL #4
- ❑ WEB OF VENOM #1
- ❑ INFERNAL HULK #6
- ❑ PLANET OF THE APES VS. FANTASTIC FOUR #3
- ❑ VENOM #257
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #27
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: SPIDER-VERSITY #1



- ❑ HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #5
- ❑ PLANET SHE-HULK #6
- ❑ PREDATOR: BLOODSHED #3

THIS MONTH'S HOST

NAME: Stephanie Phillips

TITLE: Writer

WORKS ON:
DAREDEVIL, SPIDER-GWEN, PLANET SHE-HULK

WHO IS YOUR IRL SUPER HERO?

Méret Oppenheim. She was an artist who used surrealism to expose how the female body and domestic objects are fetishized, turning them into something unsettling and confrontational. Her work is completely fearless, despite how much it scared her audience.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

Mysterio. Always the storyteller, forever dramatic.

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Stop saving those clothes for a braver version of yourself. Wear them now.

EMERALD BENSADOUN, **KAITLYN LINDTVEDT** & **KAEDEN McGAHEY** - Assistant Editors
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PANEL OF THE MONTH:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: SPIDER-VERSITY #1
page 6, panel 5
art by PERE PÉREZ

EDGE OF THE VARIANT-VERSE

We in the Spider-Office are no strangers to variants—we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant covers of the month.

WEB OF VENOM #1
Variant Cover by PERE PÉREZ

GAMMA CORNER

THE HELLBUSTER ARMOR IS UNLEASHED

Take a trip to the Burning City, as Earth's heroes make a desperate assault on the Infernal Hulk's stronghold. But will Iron Man's new HELLBUSTER armor, crafted from angelic weaponry, be enough to turn the tide?!

INFERNAL HULK #6
On sale 4/15

THE SPIDER'S WEB

ASSISTANT EDITOR: **KAITLYN LINDTVEDT**
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WHAT THE WEB-HEADS?!

A SECRET COUSIN?! WHAT?!?! HOW?! You hold on just a second, Joe Kelly, we are going to TALK about this, but only after we make sure Aunt Anna and Aunt May get through this! YOWZA! DEATH SPIRAL has been bloody enough, surely. We can't lose an Aunt too, can we?! DARE WE?! We dare a lot and hope that you're on board to dare with us! Wait a second, have I exceeded my "dare" count for a non-DAREDEVIL comic? Someone's going to call the comics cops! You all better start talking instead, but if one of you says "dare," I'm in deep trouble!

Hey Spidey-Office!

I am a newer reader of Spider-Man comics (my first was Legacy Number 955). I have to thank Mr. Kelly for writing Peter as someone with so much empathy and grace for others. It's been so great to see Peter inspire others like Raelith to see herself as someone worthy of respect, or Norman working on becoming a better man despite his many sins. Seeing Peter tell him he did great truly moved me. He really challenges me to live a life full of grace and forgiveness, even to those who have hurt me. I can't wait to read round three with Hellgate as well as whatever #1000 holds!

Sam Britton
South Bend, IN

What a great letter, Sam! Welcome to the web, and I feel the same way you do about Spider-Man inspiring me to do better. And that moment at the end of ASM #21 was one of my favorite moments of the series too. We get letters sometimes about people who are furious at how Peter is treating Norman—that no normal human could ever forgive or give a second chance to someone who has done what Norman has done. And that may well be true, but Peter Parker is no ordinary human. He's got flaws and problems and makes mistakes, but he gives more second chances than just about anyone I've ever even HEARD of. Anyway, thanks again for writing, Sam!

Dear Spidey Office,

I'm going to keep this real and honest. People talk trash about ASM sometimes, but I have been reading since I was a kid in the '90s, and issue #21, Legacy #985, genuinely brought a tear to my eye.

I have loved the character growth we have seen in Norman Osborn. The homecoming moment between him and Peter felt earned and deeply satisfying. That kind of emotional payoff is why I have stuck with this character for decades.

I am excited for what comes next and to see which classic villain gets woven into the story. The Hobgoblin in this new run has been fantastic. The story with Rapid in the Annual was excellent as well. That is how you build legacy. You strengthen the bond between core characters, honor their history while allowing real growth, and introduce new characters in ways that make readers care about them.

This run feels like it understands that Spider-Man is not just about action. It is about relationships, redemption, consequence, and heart. Thank you for that.

A longtime reader who is still here,

Steven Croft

Really glad that moment in #21 worked for you too, Steven. Between the work Nick Spencer, then Zeb Wells, and now Joe Kelly have done with Norman in this book...the moment sure felt earned to me.

Hello, Amazing Spidey-Team,

We're back—or should I say, Peter is back—on Earth. As I mentioned in previous letters, I've had a back-and-forth with this whole space storyline. While I did genuinely enjoy it more than I anticipated, it just didn't feel right not having Peter be on Earth. Likewise, I liked having Ben around, and I thought that some of what went down with Norman was relatively profound, but there's just still something about seeing Norman in the suit that just doesn't sit right with me. All that said, it's good to be back on Earth and finally give Peter the chance to fix his very messy life. I'm glad that he got to reconcile with May so quickly, and I can't say I'm surprised. I'm nervous that what went down with Brian is going to lead to him becoming some kind of villain, but I guess we will see. On the topic of being nervous, I have a bad feeling that Earth does not agree with Rae and that she is going to be forced to leave. I quite like her and her relationship with Peter, but I suppose their relationship was always set up to end. I'd still love to see Peter get back with MJ, but I really hope that, if that's done, it's done organically. Final thing, I have a question. Now that Peter is back on Earth, what are you most excited to explore? Catch y'all next month.

Cason Jones,
Sulphur Springs, Texas

Always good to hear from you, Cason! Glad these stories worked more for you than anticipated! Joe, Pepe, Ed, Johnny, and everyone are REALLY good at what they do! With Peter back on Earth, the first thing I wanted to dig into was MJ and Eddie, hence DEATH SPIRAL! Next, it's this COUSIN craziness!!! But Joe has so much up his sleeve, you'd better strap in, Cason!

Hello again, Spidey-Office.

Today, you have given me the greatest gift. More beautiful panels of Ben Reilly and Janine. Not only that, but you have also brought back his lowercase yellow text boxes. I didn't have too much hope for the story, given the way Spider-Man was trending. But this issue? Revealing threads, tying things up, and, of course, showing me my guy (possibly even doing well for himself) changes everything. Sometimes you remind me comics can be good! And last week, the art was absolutely beautiful. Please, PLEASE keep up the good work.

AH
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Hello again to YOU, AH! Glad you enjoyed the Ben/Janine stuff! Plenty more coming down the road with them! But not much on this road with me because it's lunch time and I'm starving! Glad none of you said the D-Word! NEXT WEEK, check out VENOM #257, where DEATH SPIRAL continues! Then we'll see you the week after in ASM #27, where this whole insane story wraps up! WHO LIVES?! WHO DIES?! OH BABY, I dare you to miss it! OH NO! I said--

Keep Thwippin'!

Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor
Astoria, NY

The first comic I ever purchased was issue #380 (1995) when my jaw absolutely dropped seeing the IN-SANE cover image of "Maximum Carnage" taking a hold of Deathlok (!!), Iron Fist (!!!), Spidey (!!!!), Venom (!!!!!), and—no biggie—CAPTAIN AMERICA (!!!!!!!). My preteen mind was never the same after this!

Julian Bond
Detroit, Michigan

Email us at **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM** and mark your messages **"Okay to Print"** for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

NEXT

VENOM

#257

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